

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method for enabling communications by a user having multiple identities, identities from a single communications service, the method comprising:

displaying a ~~common~~ single graphical user interface ~~including~~ configured to accommodate a list for each of ~~the multiple identities, the~~ several identities of the user, each list including other identities with whom the ~~multiple identities are used to communicate; user~~ communicates using the identity to which the list corresponds;

~~enabling selection of a source identity using the graphical user interface to enable selection, by the user from among the multiple identities using a common graphical user interface for the identities from which to initiate an electronic communication, wherein the multiple identities are from a single electronic communication service; several identities of the user, of a particular source identity from which to initiate an electronic communication;~~

~~enabling selection of a buddy using the graphical user interface to enable selection, from a list of buddies associated with identities corresponding to the particular source identity using the common graphical user interface to send the electronic communication; selected by the user, of another identity to whom to send the electronic communication; and~~

sending the electronic communication to the ~~buddy~~ other identity such that the electronic communication is identified to the ~~buddy~~ other identity as being sent from the particular source identity. identity selected by the user.

16. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 wherein the multiple identities of the user are linked using linking logic based on a remote server.

17. (Original) The method as in claim 16 further comprising offering the user a list of potential identities to which a link from the multiple identities may be created, wherein the list of potential identities is created based on relationships between the potential identities and the multiple identities known to exist within the remote server.

18. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising receiving a response to the electronic communication from the ~~buddy~~ other identity and addressed to the particular source identity.

19. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising:  
logging on to ~~[[a]]~~ the single communications ~~system~~ service using a first identity of the user that differs from the particular source identity; and  
in response to logging on to the single communications ~~system~~ service using the first ~~identity,~~ identity of the user, automatically being logged on to the single communications ~~system~~ service for the particular source identity.

20. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising displaying the ~~multiple-linked~~ several identities of the user in the ~~common~~ single graphical user interface.

21. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 20 further comprising displaying the lists of ~~buddies~~ other identities associated with each of the ~~multiple-linked~~ several identities in the ~~common~~ single graphical user interface.

22. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 15 further comprising, responsive to an addition of ~~[[an]]~~ a new identity to the list for one of the ~~multiple identities,~~ several identities of

the user, adding the new identity to the lists for the other multiple identities, of the several identities of the user.

23. (Currently amended) A graphical user interface comprising one or more window interfaces that are structured and arranged to enable:

a display portion configured to make perceivable multiple identities ~~[[for]]~~ of a user,  
~~wherein user from a single electronic communication service, and to make perceivable one or~~  
~~more buddy lists that each having have one or more constituent buddies and that each are~~  
~~associated with [[each]] one of the multiple identities, wherein the multiple identities are from a~~  
~~single electronic communication service; identities of the user; and~~

a visual indicator that is configured to display the current logon status of the buddies  
from the buddy lists of the multiple ~~identities;~~ identities of the user; and

wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a first identity of  
the multiple identities of the user is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant message  
from the user, and

wherein at least one buddy from one of the buddy lists associated with a second identity  
of the multiple identities of the user also is selectable as an intended recipient of an instant  
message from the user.

24. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window  
interfaces are structured and arranged to enable a display of an instant message addressed to one  
of the multiple ~~identities;~~ identities of the user.

25. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window  
interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all of the multiple identities of the user  
in response to a sign on of one of the ~~identities;~~ multiple identities of the user.

26. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable sign on of all of the multiple identities of the user in response to a sign on of any one of the ~~identities~~. multiple identities of the user.

27. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for each of the ~~multiple identities~~. identities of the user.

28. (Currently amended) The graphical user interface of claim 23 wherein the window interfaces are structured and arranged to enable the user to designate preferences for one of the ~~multiple identities~~, identities of the user, wherein the preferences are applied globally to the other identities of the user.

29. (New) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user comprises displaying a single graphical user interface that is configured to:

enable the user to select a particular list for a particular one of the several identities of the user; and

in response to a selection by the user of the particular list for the particular identity, display the particular list for the particular identity selected by the user.

30. (New) The method as in claim 15 wherein displaying a single graphical user interface configured to accommodate a list for each of several identities of the user comprises concurrently displaying lists for each of at least two identities of the user.

31. (New) A method for linking multiple identities of a user from a single communications service, the method comprising:

for a user of a single communications service having multiple identities for use in communicating with other users within the single communications service, authenticating a first identity of the user, the first identity of the user having a first buddy list that includes identities associated with one or more other users and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the first buddy list using the first identity of the user;

authenticating a second identity of the user, the second identity of the user having a second buddy list that includes identities associated with one or more other users and that enables the user to communicate with the other users associated with the identities of the second buddy list using the second identity of the user;

creating an association between the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user, wherein the association between the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user triggers display of a single graphical user interface for both the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user in response to authentication of both the first identity of the user and the second identity of the user, the single graphical user interface being configured to accommodate the first buddy list corresponding to the first identity of the user and the second buddy list corresponding to the second identity of the user such that the user interacts with the first buddy list to communicate with other users using the first identity of the user and the user interacts with the second buddy list to communicate with other users using the second identity of the user.

32. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein:

authenticating the first identity includes using a first password to authenticate the first identity; and

authenticating the second identity includes using a second password to authenticate the second identity.

33. (New) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are the same.

34. (New) The method as in claim 32 wherein the first password and the second password are different.

35. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein:  
authenticating the first identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the first identity; and  
authenticating the second identity includes using a SecureID to authenticate the second identity.

36. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a one-way link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

37. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a bi-directional-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

38. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a star-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

39. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein creating the association between the first identity and the second identity includes using a mesh-link configuration to create the association between the first identity and the second identity.

40. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first identity is a part of a first domain and the second identity is a part of a second domain that differs from the first domain.

41. (New) The method as in claim 31 further comprising setting preferences for the first identity, wherein setting the preferences for the first identity also sets the preferences for the second identity.

42. (New) The method as in claim 31 further comprising:  
setting first preferences for the first identity; and  
setting second preferences for the second identity.

43. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein the first buddy list and the second buddy list include one or more common buddies listed on both the first buddy list and the second buddy list.

44. (New) The method as in claim 31 wherein the single communications service enables linking multiple identities within the single communications service so as to enable presence of one to be reflected based on a login of another of the multiple identities.